

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of: **Akio NAKAJIMA**

Serial Number: **09/400,833**

Filed: **September 21, 1999**

Group Art Unit: **3724**

For: **WORKPIECE-TRANSFER DEVICE**

Examiner: **Flores-Sanchez, O.**

PROPOSED
AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL REJECTION UNDER 37 CFR §1.116

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated December 22, 2001, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claim 1, as follows:

1. (Twice Amended) A workpiece-transfer device for loading a material workpiece in a workpiece-machining device and unloading a machined product workpiece from the workpiece-machining device, characterized in that the workpiece-transfer device includes a movement means with a rectangular coordinate system for moving a traveling body in a first horizontal direction along the direction in which the workpiece-machining device and a workpiece-storage device stand, at one side of the workpiece-machining device in a line as well as in a second horizontal direction orthogonal to the first horizontal direction, and in that said traveling body includes a gripping means for gripping a material or product workpiece, wherein said workpiece-storage device includes a

product-housing section arranged for stacking of machined product workpieces and a material-housing section arranged for stacking of material workpieces provided in parallel, on said one side, in said second direction.

Please add new claim 19, as follows:

19. (NEW) A workpiece-transfer device as in Claim 1, characterized in that said workpiece-storage device includes a skeleton-housing section in parallel with said second direction and on a side of the material-housing section opposed to said product-housing section.

Please can Claims 12-18 without prejudice or disclaimer.